

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6983

INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1481

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1010

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

DEPT. FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: RSA PRESS ON USA POLICY, CARTER

SUMMARY: REPORTS OF US CORPORATE PRESSURE ON RSA AFFILIATES FOR IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES CARRIED IN MOST RSA NEWS-PAPERS.. MOST PROMINENTLY IN JOHANNESBURG'S " THE STAR" AND CAPE TOWN'S "ARGUS" MARCH 1, AND JOHANNESBURG'S "RAND DAILY MAIL" MARCH2. LITTLE EDITORIAL REACTION SO FAR. ON CARTER, REPORT HE MAY PERSONALLY ADDRESS UNITED NATIONS ON USG POLICY ON RSA, END SUMMARY.

1. FRONT PAGE REPORT FROM CORRESPONDENT RICHARD WALKER IN NEW YORK SAID " A SIX-POINT MANIFESTO CALLING FOR THE DESEGREGATION OF ALL WORK FACILITIES, EQUAL PAY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR BLACK EMPLOYEES IN RSA WAS UNVEILED BY ELEVEN GIANT AMERICAN CORPORATIONS WITH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
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INVESTED IN THE COUNTRY." REPORT QUOTED UNNAMED SPOKESMAN FOR MEMBER OF GMC BOARD LEON SULLIVAN SYAING " THEY"VE SIGNED IT. THEY'RE COMMITTED TO IT. THIS IS A RADICAL STEP." REPORT SAID AMB. YOUNG " UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND REV. SULLIVAN AND THE COMPANIES."

2. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER " BEELD" MARCH 2 REPORTED

RSA AMBASSADOR BOTHA HAD " FREINDLY" DISCUSSIONS WITH THREE
USA CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON. REPORT QUOTED
BOTHA SAYING " THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF CONFRONTATION
OR ULTIMATUMS."

3. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT, SAME PAPER "BEELD" SAID THE
CARTER ADMIN " PRESSURING USA CORPORATIONS WITH SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN RACE PRACTICES IN THEIR RSA AFFILIATES.
ONE SHOULD LOOK TO THE SOURCE OF SUCH MORALIZING. THIS SUDDEN
CONCERN OVER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK WORKERS WOULD SOUND MORE
CONVINCING IF THE FIRMS HAD DONE MORE IN THE PAST INSTEAD OF
HIDING BEHIND THE GOVT WITH EXCUSES THAT IT OPPOSED GREATER
WAGE EQUALITY. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE GOVT ITSELF TOOK
THE LEAD IN CORRECTING OBSOLETE AND UNJUST PRACTICES.
THIS ACTION (BY THE AMERICANS) REALLY AMOUNTS TO MUSTARD AFTER
THE MEAL. NOW A QUESTION TO THE CARTER ADMIN:WILL IT PROPOSE
GREATER FREEDOM FOR EMPLOYEES OF ITT AND PEPSI-COLA, WHICH
ESTABLISHED AFFILIATES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN DURING
THE PREVIOUS ADMIN?.

4. SABC RADIO NEWS COMMENTARY (WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS
SAG THINKING) EDITORIALIZED MARCH 2 ON AMB. BOTHA MEETING
WITH US BUSINESSMEN. COMMENTARY QUOTED CARL NOFFKE, CHIEF
RSA INFORMATION OFFICER IN USA, SAYING MANY ADVANCES
ADVOCATED BY US COMPANIES ALREADY PART OF SAG POLICY,
SPECIFICALLY CLOSING WAGE GAP, INCREASING INDUSTRIAL
TRAINING FACILITIES FOR BLACKS, AND PROVIDING FRINGE
BENEFITS INCLUDING HOUSING. COMMENTARY ASSERTED RSA BLACKS
ENJOYED HIGHER STANDARDS " THE ANYWHERE IN AFRICA," AND
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THAT FOUR YEAR OF SCHOOL FOR BLACKS NOW PRACTICALLY COMPULSORY,
COMMENTARY LAUDED SAG FOR PROVIDING NOT ONLY BETTER LIVING
STANDARDS BUT ALSO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS FOR BLACKS "
IN THEIR OWN AREAS, THE HOMELANDS", AND CONCLUDED OVERALL SAG
PROGRAM IS "BIGGEST SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT PROGRAM EVER
UNDERSTAKEN IN AFRICA."

5. ON CARTER, JOHANNESBURG'S CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH PAPER
" THE CITIZEN" MARCH 2 CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY BY ASSIST.
EDITOR AIDA PARKER SAYING USA UN CIRCLES ARE SPECULATING
STRONGLY THAT PRES. CARTER WILL PERSONALLY ADDRESS THE WORLD
BODY THIS MONTH ON HIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES ON RSA,
INCLUDING AMERICAN BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE REPUBLIC." QUOTING "
TRUSTED SOURCES" IN NEW YORK, ARTICLE SAID PRESS. CARTER MIGHT
MAKE MAJOR SPEECH ON USA FOREIGN POLICY " PARTICULARLY IN
RELATION TO RSA. THE CARTER ADMIN HAS ALREADY SHOWN EXTRAORDINARY
INTEREST IN THE LABOR POLICIES OF US CORPORATIONS WITH
RSA AFFILIATES."

6. PIETERMARTIZBURG LIBERAL ENGLISH NEWSPAPER " NATAL WITNESS" MARCH 2 EDITORIALIZED " IN HIS FIRST MONTH OF OFFICE PRES. CARTER HAS SHOWN IMPRESSIVE COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. NO LONGER IS IT ONLY SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE CHILE AND RSA SINGLED OUT FOR USA CRITICISM ... MR. CARTER HAS LOST NO TIME IN TACKLING BIGGEST CULPRITS OF ALL-THE USSR. HIS ADMIN. WAS ONLY SIX DAYS OLD WHEN IT ISSUED A STATEMENT DEPLORING VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. NOW MR. CARTER HIMSELF HAS IFURIATED THE SOVIETS BY PUBLICLY CRITICISING THE TREATMENT OF DISS-IDENTS.. HE BELIEVES THAT BY MAKING THE USA THE FOCAL POINT FOR WORLDWIDE CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS AND ABANDONING THE KISSINGER POLICY OF TONED DOWN CRITICISM OF THE SOVIETS IN THE INTERESTS OF DETENTE AND ARMS DELIMITATION, HE MIGHT REVERSE THE TIDE AGAINST DEMOCRACY... MR. CARTER HAS MADE AN ENCOURAGING START. BUT HIS REAL THEST WILL COME OVER INVASIONS OF PERSONAL LIBERTY IN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES OF GREAT STRATEGIC

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IMPORTANCE TO THE USA LIKE EGYPT, IRAN AND SOUTH KOREA."
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TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, SF, US
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